Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic porous body having partition walls having pores and a porosity of at least 40%, said pores being formed mainly by virtue of a porous silica powder or a porous silica-containing compound, the ceramic porous body comprising at least Si as a chemical component, the ceramic porous body being obtained by adding ~~a~~ the porous silica powder or ~~a~~ the porous silica-containing compound powder to a forming raw material to prepare a clay, forming the resulting ceramic clay into a specific shape, and firing the formed product.

2. (Original) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder has been melted during the firing and reacted with other components of the forming raw material to form a silica-containing compound.

3. (Original) The ceramic porous body according to claim 2, wherein the silica-containing compound formed by the reaction is a compound of a cordierite composition.

4. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder is an amorphous silica powder or an amorphous silica-containing compound powder.

5. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder has a bulk density of 1 g/cm^3 or less.

6. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder has a bulk density of 0.2 to 1 g/cm^3.

7. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder is added in an amount of 40 vol% or less of the total amount of the forming raw material after adding the powder.

8. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic porous body has a honeycomb shape.

9. (Original) A ceramic porous body comprising at least Si as a chemical component, the ceramic porous body being obtained by adding silica gel granules with a 50% particle size (D_{50}) of 10 to 100 μm to a forming raw material to prepare a clay, forming the resulting ceramic clay into a specific shape, and firing the formed product.

10. (Original) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules have a particle size distribution defined by the following expressions (1) and (2) with respect to the 50% particle size (D_{50}):

$$0.1 \leq D_{10}/D_{50} \leq 0.5 \quad (1)$$

$$2 \leq D_{90}/D_{50} \leq 5 \quad (2)$$

where, D_{50}: 50% particle size, D_{10}: 10% particle size, and D_{90}: 90% particle size.

11. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules include particles with an aspect ratio of 5 or less in an amount of 90 mass% or more.

12. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules do not substantially include particles with a particle size exceeding 100 μm.

13. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules are formed of a porous body with a pore volume of 0.4 to 2.0 ml/g.

14. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules are particles with a specific surface area (JIS R1626) of 100 to 1000 m^2/g.

15. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein Si accounts for 95 to 99.99 mol% of the total metal elements of the silica gel.

16. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 9, wherein the silica gel granules are obtained by sieving silica gel raw material granules with a 50% particle size (D_{50}) of 10 to 150 μm through a screen with a pore diameter of 44 to 210 μm to control the 50% particle size (D_{50}) within a range of 10 to 100 μm.

17. (Original) The ceramic porous body according to claim 16, wherein granules having a particle size distribution defined by the following expressions (3) and (4) with respect to the 50% particle size (D_{50}) are used as the silica gel raw material granules:

$$0.05 \leq d_{10}/d_{50} \leq 0.5 \quad (3)$$

$$2 \leq d_{90}/d_{50} \leq 8 \quad (4)$$

where, D_{50}: 50% particle size, D_{10}: 10% particle size, and D_{90}: 90% particle size.

18. (Previously Presented) The ceramic porous body according to claim 16, wherein the silica gel granules are sieved using an air jet sieving method.

19. (Original) A method of producing a formed product which produces a ceramic porous body upon firing, the method comprising adding silica gel granules or silica gel granules and water-absorbing polymer particles to a forming raw material to prepare a clay, and integrally forming the resulting ceramic clay into a formed product.

20. (Original) A method of producing a formed product which produces a ceramic porous body upon firing, the method comprising adding silica gel granules or silica gel granules and water-absorbing polymer particles to a forming raw material to prepare a clay,

and forming the resulting ceramic clay into a formed product using a continuous forming machine.

21. (New) A method of producing a formed product which produces a ceramic porous body upon firing, the method comprising adding silica powders containing substantially no boron therein or powders of a porous silica-containing compound containing substantially no boron therein to a forming raw material to prepare a clay, and integrally forming the resulting ceramic clay into a formed product,

wherein the silica-containing compound formed by the reaction is a compound of a cordierite composition;

the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder has a bulk density of 1 g/cm^3 or less; and

the porous silica powder or the porous silica-containing compound powder is added in an amount of 40 vol% or less of the total amount of the forming raw material after adding the powder.